

Message Text

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REF: STATE 203992

FOLLOWING ARE THE TEXTS REQUESTED REFTEL.

1.EMPEROR'S SPEECH AT COURT BANQUET, NOVEMBER 19, 1974. BEGIN QTE.

MR. PRESIDENT:

IT IS THE GREATEST PLEASURE FOR THE EMPRESS AND MYSELF TO HAVE THE
COMPANY OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AT THIS
BANQUET.

YOU ARE HERE AS THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES IN OFFICE
TO VISIT THIS COUNTRY. I APPRECIATE YOUR COMING AT A TIME WHEN YOU
ARE
SO PRESSED WITH MATTERS OF STATE AND TENDER YOU A HEARTIEST WELCOME.

THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES DATE AS FAR BACK AS 120
YEARS, WHEN COMMODORE PERRY CAME TO THIS COUNTRY AND GAVE IT A
MOTIVATION TO BREAK AWAY FROM THE CENTURIES-OLD SECLUSION AND OPEN
ITS DOORS TO THE WORLD. THE TWO COUNTRIES, NEIGHBORING ACROSS
THE PACIFIC, DEVELOPED DEEP AND CLOSE RELATIONS IN MANY FIELDS
THROUGH THE YEARS SPANNING TWO CENTURIES, IN SPITE OF VARIOUS
TWISTS AND TURNS. WE RECALL IN PARTICULAR THAT IT WAS PRESIDENT
THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES WHO SHOWED
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A DEEP UNDERSTANDING AND SUPPORT FOR JAPAN'S POSITION WHEN IT
FACED AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT SITUATION UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL
CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY. THAT WAS IN THE DAYS OF
MY GRANDFATHER, EMPEROR MEIJI.

FOR MY PART, I NEVER FORGET THE WARMHEARTED RELIEF WE RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE TIME OF THE GREAT EARTHQAKE OF 1923.

IT WAS DEPLORABLE THAT THE TWO NATIONS, WITH SUCH A HISTORY OF FRIENDSHIP, SHOULD HAVE ONCE EXPERIENCED A MOST UNFORTUNATE PERIOD. BUT THE POSTWAR JAPAN HAS BEEN WHOLE-HEARTEDLY EXERTING ITSELF TO BUILD UP A NATION THOROUGHLY DEVOTED TO THE IDEAL OF PEACE. IN THE MEANTIME, THE TREATY OF PEACE WITH JAPAN WAS CONCLUDED AT AN EARLY DATE BY THE ADVOCACY AND COOPERATION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT. THE UNITED STATES HAS ALSO ACCORDED US GOODWILL AND ASSISTANCE IN THE PERIOD OF CONFUSION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WAR. FOR ALL THIS, I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS MY CORDIAL THANKS TO YOUR GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE.

TODAY, MANKIND HAS MANY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS TO COPE WITH IN THE GLOBAL CONTEXT. I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT THEIR SOLUTION IS THE KEY TO THE ATTAINMENT OF A LASTING PEACE OF THE WORLD.

I FERVENTLY HOPE THAT THE RELATIONS BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES, EQUALLY DESIROUS OF WORLD PEACE, WILL BE FURTHER ADVANCED AND STRENGTHENED, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE MUTUAL WELCOME EXTENDED TO THE EMPRESS AND ME THREE YEARS AGO BY THE THEN PRESIDENT AND THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES WHEN WE STOPPED IN ALASKA ON OUR WAY TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR STAY IN JAPAN IS VERY SHORT, BUT I PRAY THAT YOU WILL FIND IT ENJOYABLE AND FRUITFUL.

I NOW WISH TO RAISE MY GLASS TO THE HEALTH AND HAPPINESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE PROSPERITY OF ITS PEOPLE. END QTE.

2. PRESIDENT'S TOAST AT COURT BANQUET, NOVEMBER 19, 1974. BEGIN QTE.

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YOUR MAJESTY, I AM HONORED TO BE THE GUEST OF YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES, AND IT IS WITH A VERY DEEP SENSE OF THIS SPECIAL MOMENT THAT I SPEAK THIS EVENING.

THE FIRST STATE VISIT OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO JAPAN IS AN OCCASION OF VERY GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ALL OF US. YOUR GRACIOUS HOSPITALITY SYMBOLICALLY HONORS THE 213 MILLION AMERICANS THAT I HAVE THE HONOR TO REPRESENT. I CAN REASSURE JAPAN THAT THE UNITED STATES IS DETERMINED TO PERPETUATE THE UNIQUE TIES THAT LINK OUR TWO NATIONS FOR THE COMMON GOOD.

THOUGH SEPARATED BY THE BROADEST OF OCEANS, YOUR MAJESTY, WE HAVE ACHIEVED BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS THE CLOSEST OF FRIENDSHIPS.

OUR RELATIONSHIP TRANSCENDS THAT OF GOVERNMENTS AND HEADS OF STATES. EACH YEAR THE TIES BINDING AMERICANS WITH JAPANESE INCREASE TRADE, SCIENCE, CULTURE, SPORTS, AND MANY OTHER AREAS, INCLUDING CHERISHED PERSONAL CONTACT BETWEEN INDIVIDUALS.

WE SHARE A COMMON DEVOTION TO MORAL AND TO SPIRITUAL STRENGTH. OUR PATHS ARE NOT ALWAYS IDENTICAL, BUT THEY ALL LEAD IN THE SAME DIRECTION -- THAT OF WORLD PEACE AND HARMONIOUS RELATIONS AMONG MANKIND.

LET US CONTINUE TO SEEK UNDERSTANDING WITH EACH OTHER AND AMONG ALL PEOPLES, YOUR MAJESTY. LET US TRADE, LET US SHARE AND PERPETUATE THE PROSPERITY OF BOTH NATIONS. LET US WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE COMMON PROBLEMS, RECOGNIZING THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF THE MODERN WORLD IN WHICH WE ALL LIVE.

AMERICA, I CAN ASSURE YOU, YOUR MAJESTY, IS DETERMINED TO DO ITS PART. IT IS A SPIRIT OF RESPECT, THE SPIRIT OF ADMIRATION FOR THE JAPANESE NATION IN DEDICATION OF OUR CONTINUING COLLABORATION, AND WITH SINCERE AND DEEP-FELT CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE, THAT I OFFER A TOAST TO THE HEALTH AND TO THE WELL-BEING OF YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES. END QUOTE.

3. PRESIDENT'S TOAST AT AKASAKA PLACE BANQUET, NOVEMBER 20, 1974.
BEGIN QTE.

YOUR MAJESTIES, I AM HONORED TO HAVE THE PRIVILEGE OF WELCOMING YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES TO THIS DINNER THIS EVENING. IT
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PERMITS ME TO, IN A SMALL WAY, IN SYMBOLIC GESTURE, TO RECIPROCATATE THE WONDERFUL HOSPITALITY SO GRACIOUSLY EXTENDED TO ME THIS WEEK.

IT HAS BEEN A PERIOD OF ENLIGHTENMENT FOR ME AND I WILL TAKE HOME AN INSPIRING IMPRESSION OF THE POSSIBILITIES AVAILABLE FOR AN EVEN GREATER FRIENDSHIP, GREATER COOPERATION AND INTERDEPENDENCE OF OUR TWO NATIONS.

AMERICA IS NOW APPROACHING ITS NATIONAL BICENTENNIAL. TONIGHT I WOULD LIKE TO RECALL ANOTHER MEANINGFUL EVENT 114 YEARS AGO ON MAY 14, 1860. THAT WAS THE DAY WHEN THE FIRST DIPLOMATIC MISSION EVER SENT BY JAPAN TO ANOTHER NATION ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON, D.C. OUR NATIONAL CAPITAL.

I AM VERY PLEASED, YOUR MAJESTIES, TO PRESENT ON THIS EVENING TO ALL OF OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS A TOKEN OF THE DURABILITY OF AMERICAN-JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP. IT IS A MEDAL BEARING THE LIKENESS OF PRESIDENT BUCHANAN WHO HAD THE HONOR OF WELCOMING THE JAPANESE DELEGATION TO THE HISTORIC EASTROOM OF THE WHITEHOUSE. SINCE THAT OCCASION, THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT HAS NEVER CEASED TO LOOK TO THE EAST AS WELL AS TO THE WEST.

OUR VISITORS THEN REGARDED US AS AMERICANS, AS STRANGE CREATURES AND OBSERVED US IN EVERY DETAIL. IT WAS WITH EQUAL FASCINATION THAT WE VIEWED OUR JAPANESE VISITORS. WE LEARNED FROM EACH OTHER THAN, AND I AND WE ARE CONTINUING TO LEARN TODAY.

THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON THAT I HAVE LEARNED DURING THIS VISIT CORRESPONDS WITH A BRILLIANT INSIGHT OF ONE OF THE JAPANESE ENVOYS ON THE FIRST MISSION TO THE UNITED STATE. THE OCCASION WAS A VISIT TO THE NEW YORK HOME OF THE WIDOW OF COMMODORE PERRY AND SAID -- AND I QUOTE: "THE TIME HAS COME WHEN NO NATION MAY REMAIN ISOLATED AND REFUSE TO TAKE PART IN THE AFFAIRS OF THE REST OF THE WORLD."

THAT CONCEPT IS EVEN MORE COMPELLING TODAY. THE LINKS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS CAN SERVE AS A MODEL FOR A WORLD INCREASINGLY AWARE OF THE NEED FOR GREATER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

ACCORDINGLY, IN RECALLING THAT FIRST JAPANESE DELEGATION TO
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WASHINGTON, I PLEDGE THAT MY GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ISOLATE ITSELF FROM THE WORLD OR FROM JAPAN.

ON BEHALF OF THE NATION THAT I AM PRIVILEGED TO REPRESENT, TO LEAD, I REAFFIRM THE SPIRIT OF FRIENDSHIP THAT ENDURES BETWEEN US. I REAFFIRM MY DETERMINATION TO SEE THAT WARM RELATIONSHIP CONTINUES AND GROWS.

YOUR MAJESTIES, IN THAT SPIRIT AND WITH A HEART FILLED WITH FAITH IN THE FUTURE AND APPRECIATION OF OUR GUESTS, I OFFER A TOAST TO THE HEALTH AND TO THE WELL-BEING OF YOUR IMPERIAL MAJESTIES. END QUOTE.

4. EMPEROR'S REMARKS AT AKASAKA PLACE BANQUET, NOVEMBER 20, 1974; (UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION), BEING QTE.

I THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART FOR YOUR EXCELLENCY'S INVITATION TO THIS WARM-HEARTED RECEPTION TONIGHT, AND ALSO FOR THE MOST GRACIOUS REMARKS YOUR EXCELLENCY MADE JUST NOW.

WHILE YOUR EXCELLENCY'S SOJOURN IN JAPAN WAS BUT A BRIEF ONE, IT WAS AN EVENT OF SPECIAL NOTE IN THE LONG HISTORY OF OUR TWO NATIONS. I AM FULLY CONVINCED THAT THIS WILL SERVE TO FURTHER DEEPEN THE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES, AND FURTHER PROMOTE THE FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS IN ALL SECTORS WHICH ALREADY EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

YOUR EXCELLENCY WILL HAVE A DAY'S RESPITE IN KYOTO TOMORROW, FOLLOWING WHICH YOU WILL CONTINUE ON YOUR LONG JOURNEY. I WISH THAT EVERYTHING WILL GO PEACEFULLY.

TOGETHER WITH ALL ASSEMBLED GUESTS HERE, I PROPOSE A TOAST
TO YOUR EXCELLENCY'S HEALTH, AND FOR THE WEALFARE AND PROSPERITY
OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. END QTE.
HODGSON

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